

Application No. 10/035,893
Amendment dated September 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated March 19, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (new): Apparatus for recovery of a product forming a slick floating on the surface of water, said apparatus comprising:

- an enclosure adapted for vertical positioning, said enclosure having an inlet in the upper portion of said enclosure for permitting ingress of a product to be recovered, and an outlet located in the lowermost portion of said enclosure for outflow of recovered product from said enclosure;

- an agitator disposed in said enclosure, said agitator adapted to generate a dynamic vortex which descends downwardly in said enclosure into said outlet;

- a motor, said motor including a shaft, said shaft drivingly secured to said agitator;

- a float operatively secured to said enclosure for floatingly supporting said enclosure on water to thereby keep said inlet at the level of a slick to be recovered; and

- a conduit connected to said outlet for conducting recovered product from said outlet.

Claim 10 (new): Apparatus of claim 9 wherein said float is adjustable in height relative to said enclosure.

Claim 11 (new): Apparatus of claim 9 wherein said enclosure has a funnel shape which generally follows the contours of a vortex, said funnel shape including an outwardly flared portion, said outwardly flared portion comprising said inlet, said funnel shape including a narrowed tip, said narrowed tip comprising said outlet.

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Claim 12 (new): Apparatus of claim 9 including a suction means, said suction means connected to said outlet.

Claim 13 (new): Apparatus of claim 12 including a control, said control connected to said motor and to said pump for controlling the operation of at least one of said pump and said motor as a function of the other.

Claim 14 (new): Apparatus of claim 9 wherein said float is spaced a vertical distance from said enclosure, said distance being adjustable, whereby the depth of immersion of said inlet into a slick is adjustable as a function of the thickness of a said slick of product to be recovered.